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## To Keep the Sewing Machine Humming

Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and M. L. DuMars, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, September 7, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

--ooOoo--

M. L. DUMARS: Now, Ruth Van Deman again -- with some news for homemakers.

RUTH VAN DEMAN: And for that handy man about the house.

DUMARS: Uh-oh.

VAN DEMAN: Duke, how's the family sewing machine?

DUMARS: A little dusty probably. Otherwise O.K., so far as I know.

VAN DEMAN: Ever give it a thorough cleaning and oiling?

DUMARS: No. I started to once. But something called me away. . .

VAN DEMAN: Guess you figured a sewing machine can run forever without much attention. Well, the miracle is the sewing machine does keep right on running till it finally gets so choked up with lint and gummed oil that the bearings begin to wear. Duke, have you heard of the sewing machine clinics organized by the State extension services?

DUMARS: Just heard them mentioned. Tell us about them.

VAN DEMAN: In Maryland alone, the women, with some help from an agricultural engineer, have cleaned and repaired 480 sewing machines. Some were old-timers ... machines over 50 years old, rolled out of attics and back bedrooms. Some were up-to-date models that just needed a good cleaning and oiling, so the parts can run easily and not jam some day when there's an emergency job on hand.

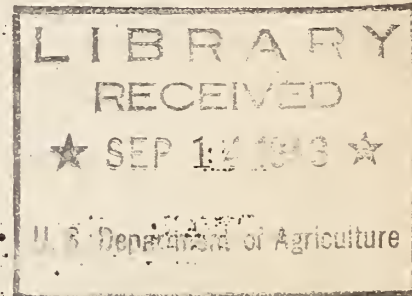
DUMARS: Ruth, are you needling my conscience about cleaning that sewing machine?

VAN DEMAN: Let your conscience be your guide, Mr. DuMars.. Every sewing machine has a war job to do....if not for the family then for the community.

DUMARS: True enough, like that battery of sewing machines I pass every day in the patio of the Department of Agriculture building. Sewing for the Red Cross, aren't they?

VAN DEMAN: For the Red Cross, and various other charitable organizations. That small group of women has made, remodeled, and mended thousands of garments in the last two years. Now they occasionally do jobs for the men in the services ... shorten shirt sleeves...lengthen trousers after they shrink in the wash...and help in many ways to make the men more comfortable in their G.I. clothes.

DUMARS: I imagine there's a big field for something like that in every town or city...especially one near a military establishment.





VAN DEMAN: Duke, what I'm leading up to is this new bulletin on "Sewing Machines - Cleaning and Adjusting." It's a 24-page handbook to help a woman, or a man, put a sewing machine in the pink .. so it can sew a seam for a soldier, or do a better job for the family.

DUMARS: May I have a look?

VAN DEMAN: Certainly.

DUMARS: Cleaning and oiling ...here it is to prod me again! And excellent diagrams, labeling every part and showing the spots to oil. That's a help.

VAN DEMAN: Yes, that's the plan ... pictures on practically every page to help a person who isn't a natural-born mechanic.

DUMARS: You implying?

VAN DEMAN: Not at all. Pictures like this are a help to anyone working on a sewing machine. For instance, how to clean and oil the treadle mechanism .. adjust the tension (that was always a Waterloo for me) ... what to do for the bobbin winder when it gets jammed ... how to adjust the presser foot to thick and thin material. Finally a listing of all the troubles a sewing machine is heir to, with references to the pages where you'll find the cure.

DUMARS: And what's this ... interchangeable needle list?

VAN DEMAN: That's one of the most valuable parts of the whole book. Some needles made for one sewing machine are all right to use in another if they have the same code number. That list gives the code numbers. Sewing machine needles are scarce these days. So if a neighbor wants to share her supply, or if the store is out of your special kind but has others, this list tells you which needles fit which machines.

DUMARS: Well, Ruth, you've done your work on me. I'm going to take this bulletin home and do my duty by the family sewing machine. I'll clean it. And I'll oil it, till it runs and hums like a bird.

VAN DEMAN: Hums like a humming bird?

DUMARS: Humming bird ... say, the beak of a humming bird looks just like the spout of an oil can. If we could only train humming birds.....

VAN DEMAN: Here now. There's no substitute for a handy man or a handy woman and an oil can.

DUMARS: Well, so be it. Farm and Home friends, let me give you the title of this new bulletin Ruth Van Deman's handed me. It is "Sewing Machines - Cleaning and Adjusting." If you want a copy, send a post card to Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. Ask for the bulletin on Sewing Machines, and remember, every sewing machine is needed on the home front.